

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

November 7th, 2018

Minutes

Chairperson Tom Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Committee Members present: Tom Cannon, Jim Thurman, Larry Stawicki, Ilse York, Michael Vento, Charleen Thompson, Phil Mowry, [Michael Kipp](#).

Guests Welcomed: none

Minutes of October, 2018: Minutes were approved as submitted

Old Business:

1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness: No action.

2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration: Larry gave us update on this committee. They had a meeting on October 30th. Talked about the flag boxes for proper disposal of the Colors. This would be an Eagle Scout project funded by Post 235. Need MVAC to recommend locations to the Town council for approval. Box should be locked; flags can be put in by a slot on the top but should not be able to remove them that way. Scouts will do the design, raise the funds and per Phil the Legion is responsible for maintaining the boxes. Recommend that the Legion can take responsibility of the flag boxes. Larry requested to know the time line of the project and boxes, also whether they will be weatherized as we are not sure if they will be posted inside or outside at this time as accessibility maybe an issue. After some discussion. the three locations that will be brought up to the Town are police station, community center (or fire department if the community center refuses) and then green area near down town Matthews.

Larry indicated that they are still working on the rolling calendar.

Next **Honor Flight** is on May 11, 2019; one is in Charlotte and one is in the Ashville area. They try to have 2 flights a year, they had none in October. We could consider sponsoring one as the price is \$500 for the Veteran and then \$400 for the spouse or guardian. Right now the eligible parties are WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans. All the memorials will be visited, Arlington, Pentagon even a mail call on the return flight. This is a one day event from 8 am till at least 8 pm. We could sponsor someone at any time but our veteran needs to be selected and papers/application completed by Jan 2019. We are also contacting the responsible parties for the Honor Flights and to verify if any veterans of Matthews are already on the applications list, as the Town may want to sponsor one person and a volunteer or guardian, through MVAC. Per Phil: this needs to be approved by the town; by endorsing the one that we want to sponsor. Per Tom we currently have \$3200 in the budget.

3: Subcommittee 3. Communications Charleen was still working on getting updated on the events of the subcommittee as the last meeting was the handover of the notebook and the status on certain projects. First order is to locate the purple heart and parking signs to get a status update, how many are installed and where. Charleen would contact the Town to find out and let us know. There should be two more signs and request was made for more signs to be bought by funds donated by Rotary. Extra signs should be in Hazen's office. Maybe get some recommendations on where the remainder of the signs should be placed.

Still working on the approved press releases. We have one application for the Veteran of the Year that was handed over to Phil and Tom. That individual was approved by MVAC and will be given to the Mayor for his approval.

4: Subcommittee 4: Executive: Phil is working on updating the SOPs. Tom is preparing the quarterly report that is given to the Town. Tom stated that the Mayor did endorse the Veterans Day event and will speak at the event in Stumptown Park. Phil reminded us about the event that the Legion is hosting with the Town endorsement for Veterans Day this coming weekend. Saturday: 11 – 1 PM at Masons and Legion with 100 free lunches for Veterans. Table will be there with a display of the WWI memorials on the honored vets in Matthews.

Veterans Day:

11 am ceremony in Stumptown Park that will take about 35 minutes and then we relocate to the old Matthews cemetery for the grave sites of PVT Hooks and PVT Orr, who passed 100 years ago during the Great War.

From Saturday through Sunday the Red Brick team will have Veteran owned breweries that are in the area supporting veterans. On Monday Rotary has their veterans' lunch in the Levine Center.

Tom updated us on the Veteran of the Year status for Mike Rusho, West Point graduate, Boy Scouts, Rotary president. He was voted in as the new Veteran of the Year by the entire committee present. Tom will contact the Mayor for his consideration and approval.

Tom explained what the Mayor's Medal will be. Phil showed picture of two examples of the medal. We voted to choose the antique look. MVAC will purchase 10, which will cover 19 years. Per Larry, make a certificate for the medal and make a copy of a picture on the certificate as well. Similar to the Military awards that are handed out, per Charleen, maybe do a proclamation by the Mayor, and will be presented at the December 10th Town Council meeting.

Charleen and Ilse will create some kind of certificate for the award to be handed out with the actual medal.

Tom reported the POW flag is purchased and in Hood Room, so that is completed.

New Business: We lost a few more members and per Phil, we need to attract more qualified people. Helping veterans directly is not our role per Phil, we need to be advising the Town what they do.

There was some discussion about whether sub-committees are needed in the future. Can we assign specific projects to our individual who would drive them through to completion? If we are having issues manning events of our own, how can we create partnerships with organizations who have the manpower to do the heavy lifting with our guidance? Should we involve the teens under Kiwanis or Rotary? It was agreed MVAC needs to explore these ideas in December.

Treasurer's Report: Tom went over treasurer's report. We had \$3585.74 in our budget for our 2019 Fiscal year. Per Tom, we spend about \$500 this year.

Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments- Tom indicated that we need to have more people present for the meetings and that he will send out a list of the topics prior to the December meeting to include the new direction and other ideas that came up during the general discussion.

Comments-Town Council Liaison: Hazen was not present and not represented so there are not any update from the town at this time.

Open Comments:

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Submitted by:

Ilse York, Secretary